(ix) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Software Technology Parks of India, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Technology Parks.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1903/98]

V. Memorandum of Understganding between the Government of India (Department of Electronics) and CMC Limited for the year 1998- 99.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-19123/98]

MESSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA

The Coffee (Amendment) Bill, 1998

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha:

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Coffee (Amendment) Bill, 1998, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held of the 16th December, 1998"

Sir, I lay a copy of the Bill on the Table.

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I present the Forty-ninth Report (in English and Hindi) of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs on the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1997.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA (Karnataka): Sir, I lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) of the First Report of the Committee on Public Undertakings on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Eleventh Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on "Sickness in Public Undertakings."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jaswant Singh. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI JIBON ROY (West Bengal): Sir, I want to make a submission. I will take only one minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN: On what?

SHRI JIBON ROY: Sir, several thousand workers are protesting. They have not been paid wages....

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is not the issue. (*Interruptions*). No, I am not allowing. (*Interruptions*). That is not on the agenda. (*Interruptions*). Shri Jaswant Singh. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI JIBON ROY: Sir, they have not been paid wages for the last....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. Shri Jaswant Singh.

SHRI JIBON ROY:*

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Sir,...

SHRI MD. SALIM (West Bengal): Sir, we have not got copies of the statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, have the copies of the statement been distributed?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Not yet, Sir.

SHRI MD. SALIM: Sir, we wanted to raise this issue during Question Hour. We had also given notice for suspension of Quesiton Hour. Then we came to know that the Minister would make a statement. Once they make a statement, copies of the statement must be given to us.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I will explain it. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, kindly adjourn the House for 15 minutes.

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*Not recorded.

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प्रो. विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा: (दिल्ली) पांच मिनट पहले तो उनको बताया गया है। पांच मिनट में कॉपीज नहीं आ सकती 15 मिनट तो लगेंगे।

डा. अलादी पी. राजकुमार (आन्ध्र प्रदेश): 15 मिनट के लिए हाउस को ऐडजर्न कर दीजिए।

नेता सदन के (श्री सिकन्दर बख्त): 15 मिनट के लिए हाउस को ऐडजर्न कर दीजिए। हम तब तक कॉपीज मुहैया करा देंगे।

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम: सर, मामला बहुत गंभीर है। अमेरिका के खिलाफ आप बोलेंगे इसलिए लिखित में होना चाहिए ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall we adjourn the House or start with the Calling Attention? If we start with the Calling Attention, then we cannot break it.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, let the hon. Minister make the statement. As the hon. Leader of the House has said, in 15 or 20 minutes they will make available copies of the statement. Sir, after the statement, the House can be adjourned for 15 minutes. Once we get copies of the statement, we will seek clarifications. Till we get a copy of the statement, we cannot seek clarifications. Without a copy of the statement, I will say what I want to say and he will say what he wants to say.

So, a statement on a crucial issue like this is needed. If the Government requires 15 to 20 minutes to make copies, there is no harm in adjourning the House till that time. Or, the next item on the Agenda can be taken up and as soon as the copies are ready, we can interrupt that, and we can seek clarifications on this statement. This is only my submission for the consideration of this House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, if we take up the next item of business, that is, Calling Attention Motion, we will not be able to break it because the general pratice has been that a Calling Attention Motion is not disrupted.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, you adjourn the House for 15 minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How long will it take for you to get the copies made?

श्री सिकन्दर बख्त: सर, कापीज तो हम फौरन बनवा देंगे। अगर हाउस इतनी छुट्टी दे दे कि अगर हिन्दी ट्रांसलेशन अगर न दें सकें तो कोई नाराजगी तो नहीं होगी।

[ ] شری سکندر بخت: سر - کاپیز تو ہم فوراً بنوا دیں گے اگر ہاؤس اتنی چھٹی دے دے کہ اگر ہندی ٹرانسلیشن نہ دے سکیں تو کوئی ناراضگی تو نہیں ہوگی

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम: हिन्दी की तैयारी नहीं करते हैं ...(व्यवधान)...

[ ] شری محمد سلیم: ہندی کی تیاری نہیں کرتے ہیں ... "مداخلت" ...

श्री सभापति: हिन्दी तो नहीं हो पाएगी।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will 15 minutes be enough?

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then, we have to adjourn for 15 minutes...

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: In that case, we can prepone the lunch hour. We can make an adjustment and adjourn for lunch at 12 0, clock itself.

श्री गुलाम नबी आजाद (जम्मू और कश्मीर): हिन्दी की आपको यहां जरूरत नहीं है, हिन्दी की यू.एन.ओ. में जरूरत है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री नरेश यादव (बिहार): क्या हिन्दी अनुवादकों की कमी है? ...(व्यवधान)... हिन्दी में कापी मिलनी चाहिए। ...(व्यवधान)....

श्री रामदेव भंडारी (बिहार): सर, हिन्दी को उपेक्षित किया जा रहा है। ...(व्यवधान)...

प्रो. विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा: सर, 12.30 बजे तक एडजर्न कर दीजिए।

श्री रामदेव भंडारी: सर, हिन्दी की कापी भी मिलनी चाहिए।

श्री सभापति: हिन्दी की कापी नहीं हो पाएगी। We will adjourn for 15 minutes. So, we adjourn till 12.20 p.m.

[ ] Transliteration in Arabic Script.

The House then adjourned at seven minutes past twelve of the clock.

The House reassembled at twenty-seven minutes past twelve of the clock, **Mr. Chairman** *in the Chair.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jaswant Singh.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Developments Relating to Iraq

The Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will read out the text of the specific statement of the Government, and I trust that sufficient number of its copies are available with the hon. Members.

We have been closely following developments relating to Iraq. India has close historical ties and strong affinities with the countries and peoples of the region. We have been deeply concerned about the sufferings of the people of Iraq, and have called for the lifting of sanctions in tandem with Iraq's compliance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. We have consistently counselled restraint and moderation in resolving differences that have emerged from time to time in the interaction of the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) with Iraq.

The Government of India is gravely concerned at and deplores these airstrikes being carried out on Iraq by the U.S. and U.K. It is particularly regrettable that this unilateral step has been undertaken at the very time when the UN Security Council was insession to discuss developments arising from the report of the Head of UNSCOM, which the UNSG had forwarded to the Council with his recommendations proposing alternative courses of action. This attack raises serious questions regarding the functioning of the collective and consultative procedures of the UN Security Council. It also undermines the ability of the Council to verify Iraq's compliance with the relevant Council Resolutions.

It has been our considered view that use of force in this situation would be counter-productive. This issue needs to be resolved diplomatically through peaceful means and dialogue. We have supported efforts by the UN in this direction. We have noted the statement of the UN Secretary General expressing deep regret at the latest development. We call for an immediate halt to the military action and a resumption of diplomatic efforts under the auspices of the UN.

The Indian community in Iraq numbering about 50 persons is safe. We have been in touch with our Embassy and are taking all measures to ensure their welfare.

Sir, with your permission, I will depart slightly from the prepared official text. I would like to share with the hon. Members the latest position in Baghdad because we had been in touch with our Ambassador in Baghdad at 20 minutes past 12 of the clock, which is what we wanted to do so that the House is Kept abreast of the latest position. I am informed by our Ambassador in Baghdad that the second strike on Baghdad has begun this morning--I cannot give you the exact time approximately at about 9.30 a.m. IST.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Shame, shame, shame.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The first strike was approximately at 3.30 a.m. IST. I would also like to inform the Members and the House that thirteen Indian families have left Baghdad by road for Amman and we have made adequate arrangements for others to leave. I would be happy to provide further details of the unfolding situation as Members ask for clarifications.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, according to a despatch the PTI has sent, the Government of Clinton—I call it the Government of Clinton—has said that it is not going to be a one time strike. I quote his statement. President Bill Clinton has stated: On the unanimous recommendation of the National Security Team, I have ordered strong, sustained series of strikes against Iraq. "It is going to be a sustained one, it is going to be a continuous one, and it is going to be an uninterrupted one.

Secondly, Sir, Britain is in collusion. Only two States are in collusion to bring shame to the humanity.